

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ADLINGTON.



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

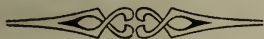
# MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

FOR THE

Urban District of Adlington.

Lancashire.

For the Year ended 31st December, 1920.



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G. E. Schofield, Printer, Adlington,



# THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ADLINGTON.

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VICTORIA TERRACE,

ADLINGTON, LANCs.,

28TH MARCH, 1921.

The Chairman and Members of the Adlington Urban  
District Council.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my Ninth Annual Report on the Health of your Township for the year ending December 31st, 1920.

**AREA AND POPULATION.** The area of the District is 1,064 acres, the number of inhabited houses is 947, and the estimated population for the middle of 1920 for births and deaths is 4,382.

The Census of 1911 gave the population as 4,457. Taking the estimated population of 4,382 it gives an average of 4.62 persons to every household, compared to 4.63 in 1919, and 4.88 in 1916.

The general industry in the district during the past 10 years remains unchanged, and consists of Cotton Weaving, Spinning, Bleaching and Dyeing, and Coal Mining.

The natural subsoil of the district is chiefly clay, the deleterious effects of which are to a large extent counteracted by a good system of drainage that is completely under the control of the Council.

**BIRTHS.** The births registered in 1920 total 107, an increase of 1 over 1919, and of 34 over 1918.

Sixty of these were males and 47 females, and included in these were one illegitimate male, one illegitimate female, and three pairs of twins.

On the above figures and estimated population the birth-rate for 1920 is 24·4 per 1,000, compared to 24·1 in 1919, and 21·0 the mean of the previous 10 years, an increase of 0·3 and 3·4 per 1,000 respectively.

The average birth-rate for England and Wales is 25·4, a record figure for the country.

**DEATHS.** The deaths registered and allocated to this area total 62, consisting of 25 males and 37 females, and inclusive of one male illegitimate child.

The death-rate calculated on the estimated population of 4,382 is 14·1 per 1,000, an increase of 3·2 on 1919 and of 2·7 on the mean of 11·6 for the previous 10 years, and lastly, an increase of 1·7 over the average death-rate of 12·4 for England and Wales, a distinctly unfavourable comparison.

The epidemic death-rate is 0·68 per 1,000, a slightly higher figure than the 0·47 in 1919, but still 0·28 below the mean of the previous 10 years.

The phthisis death-rate for 1920 is 0·22 per 1,000, a diminution of 0·49 from 1919 and of 0·54 from the mean of the previous 10 years, these figures show the most favourable results of my statistical report and, as far as I know, are a record for Adlington—two cases of tuberculosis having been registered only for the whole year.

**INFANTILE MORTALITY.** Eleven infants under 12 months' old have been registered: five males (including one illegitimate) and six females, a total of five more than last year and an average of 102 deaths to the 1,000 children born, this figure is 55 more than 1919, 24 higher than the mean of the previous 10 years, and 22 above the average for England and Wales.

This figure is the highest I have known in your township and to a large extent is responsible for the generally increased death-rate, a very marked contrast to the low rates of the previous two years.

Four of the infantile deaths were due to premature birth, three to broncho-pneumonia, and two to under-developed twins, the first class apparently affording the only scope where a possible source of enquiry and prevention could be made in the future.

The deaths in 1920 at the two extreme periods of life are very noticeable, viz. :—11 under one year and 24 over 60 years, or 36 over 40 years. Of the remainder between one year and 40 years only 15 deaths took place, and of these three occurred under five years, three between five and 10 years, five under 20 years, and four between 20 and 40 years of age.

### CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES :—

Influenza	...	...	2
Whooping Cough...	...	...	2
Tubercular Diseases :			
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	1	
Other Tubercular Disease	...	1—	2
Pneumonia, all forms	...	...	8
Organic Heart Diseases	...	...	9
Bronchitis	...	...	4

#### GENERAL DISEASES :—

Meningitis	...	...	1
Acute Rheumatism	...	...	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	5
Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	1
Appendicitis	...	...	1
Nephritis	...	...	1
Congenital Debility	...	...	6
Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	2

#### OTHER DEFINED DISEASES :—

Cerebral Apoplexy	...	...	5
Senile Atheroma	...	1	
General Arterial Sclerosis	...	1—	2
Dyspepsia (convulsions)	...	...	1
Difficult Labour	...	...	1
Acute Enteritis	...	...	2
Senility, Enlarged Prostate	...	...	1
Synovitis Knee	...	...	1
Pernicious Anæmia	...	...	1
Rheumatic Arthritis	...	...	1—15
Causes unknown	...	...	1
Total	...	...	62

### INFANTILE DEATHS :—

Premature Birth ...	...	...	4
Broncho-Pneumonia ...	...	...	3
Under-developed Twins ...	...	...	2
Difficult Labour ...	...	...	1
Dyspepsia and Convulsions...	...	...	1
			—
			11

### GENERAL SANITARY CONDITIONS.

**WATER.** Water is obtained from the Blackrod Urban District Council, and is mainly upland surface water of good quality and free from contamination.

The supply is by gravitation and should be constant, but in the higher parts of the district, in the early part of the days when heavy drawing takes place, there is a somewhat restricted supply.

All houses in the district have a public supply of water available.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.** It was not necessary to take any action during the year with regard to the pollution of rivers and streams.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** The drainage and sewerage is on the combined system, and the arrangements for the disposal of sewage would appear to be adequate as no complaints have been received during the year from the River Authorities.

One part of the district is treated on the broad irrigation system.

The treatment of the sewage at the main works consists of precipitation, filtration and irrigation.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.** The accommodation provided consists as follows :—

Privy Middens ...	...	461
Pail Closets ...	...	5
Waste Water Closets ...	...	30
Fresh Water Closets ...	...	449

During the year only 5 privies were converted to Water Closets, a rate which must be admitted to be very slow.

This is a matter to which I would like to draw your special attention, as the existence of foul stinking privy middens in confined areas is a very serious menace to the public health, especially when the contents are thrown on to unpaved yard spaces, and in some cases deposited on to the public highway before removal can be effected.

**SCAVENGING.** The Scavenging is carried out by the Local Authority, and considering the circumstances governing the same—enumerated in the preceding paragraph,—is satisfactorily carried out.

The refuse is carted away to a tip which is in an isolated part of the district, and some is also used for agricultural purposes.

There are about 344 portable receptacles for house refuse, and invariably where privies are converted to water closets portable receptacles are provided.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.** The district has been regularly and systematically inspected. The nature of the defects and nuisances discovered were of a minor character, and generally were remedied on the same being pointed out to the responsible persons without service of a notice. Twenty informal notices were served and no statutory notices, which resulted in the nuisances being abated.

There were no important sanitary improvements effected during the year to which I can specially draw your attention.

**SCHOOLS.** The sanitary condition and water supply to all schools is satisfactory.

The elementary schools were regularly disinfected and sprayed during the year. When any case of infectious disease occurred action was taken to exclude any children who could possibly carry infection.

#### FOOD.

**MILK SUPPLY.** The whole of the milk sold in this district is produced locally. No complaints have been received as to the quality, but the method of distribution is open to question, as the prevailing system of delivery from kits in open conveyances is somewhat unsatisfactory.



There are 14 registered cow-keepers, and 31 inspections have been made during the year, the premises being found in a satisfactory condition.

Under the Milk (Mothers' and Children's) Order of 1919, milk has been supplied to necessitous cases.

MEAT. There is only one slaughter-house, which has been regularly visited on slaughtering days and found to be satisfactory.

No diseased meat has been found in the district.

Slaughter-houses	In 1914.	Jan., 1920.	Dec., 1920.
Registered ...	1	1	1
Licensed ...	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	1

All bakehouses (10) and all other premises where food is stored or manufactured have been visited and found satisfactory.

I have not heard of any cases of food poisoning during the year.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year 40 cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases have been reported, made up of:—

Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	11
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	7
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	1
Malaria ...	...	...	...	2
				—
				40

The large number of Diphtheria cases were chiefly of a sporadic nature apparently, and at different schools. In October, I advised a closure on account of an epidemic of Whooping Cough.

Arrangements are in practice whereby the School Authorities notify the Medical Officer of Health of the presence of infectious disease, and were made use of in the above-mentioned epidemic of Whooping Cough.



I have not been made aware of any return cases of Scarlet Fever, and only two cases of Malaria were reported during the year.

Bacteriological aids have been freely used, and 18 specimens were sent away for examination, viz.:—Blood 1, Throat Swabs 11, Sputum 6. A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is maintained at the Council Office, and has been made use of by the Medical Practitioners.

Vaccination or Re-vaccination under the Public Health (Small Pox Preventions) Regulations, 1917, has not been required or solicited. The mortality from Influenza is 0.22 per 1,000. There has been no special enquiry regarding this epidemic, but advice notices have been posted for its prevention and treatment. There are no special facilities for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons or their belongings.

**TUBERCULOSIS.** Medical Practitioners in the district are very prompt in complying with the notification of this disease, and measures are taken to secure the isolation of these cases in the cottage houses, as far as possible, and disinfection of the premises after death.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A scheme is in practice in the district, but it is under the direct control of the County Medical Officer of Health.

#### SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

The Staff consists of two members: a Medical Officer of Health and an Inspector of Nuisances, and their duties are those of general inspection, disinfection, and making reports to the Council upon the sanitary condition of the District.

The Hospital accommodation for the Isolation of Infectious Disease is provided by the Chorley Joint Hospital Board, of which this Council is a constituent authority.

Sixteen cases were isolated there from this area.

The following Acts have been adopted, and are in force in the district:—

The Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890, Part III.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Parts).

Bacteriological arrangements are made with the Clinical Research Association for special examinations, 18 specimens were sent during the year and six of these were for the detection of Tubercle Bacilli.

#### GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS,

GENERAL. It has been estimated that 100 houses were required to be built to meet the shortage for this area, a figure accepted by the Ministry of Health, and at the end of the year 55 houses were in course of erection.

OVERCROWDING. There is overcrowding, and the cause is due to insufficient bedroom accommodation in existing houses; owing to the shortage of houses no action can for the moment be taken, but in the Council's Scheme are a number of houses containing four bedrooms.

FITNESS. The general standing of property is fair, the defects found were not of a serious nature and did not require any legal action being taken for their remedy, the recommendation of the Sanitary Inspector proving sufficient in all cases.

There are no unhealthy areas and no Registered Lodging Houses.

I remain, Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. RIGBY,

Medical Officer of Health.

#### APPENDICES.

##### HOUSING CONDITIONS. STATISTICS.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1920.

##### 1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population ... ..	4,382
(2) General death-rate ... ..	24.4
(3) Death-rate from Tuberculosis ... ..	0.22
(4) Infantile mortality ... ..	102
(5) Number of dwelling of all classes ... ..	947
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses ... ..	930
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected ... ..	—

##### 2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

##### I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	—
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910...	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..	—
II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices. Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ..	—
III.—Action under Statutory Powers.	
A.—Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	—
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... ..	—
B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied :—	
(a) by owners ... ..	20
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ... ..	—
C.—Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.	
(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... ..	—
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	—
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	—

## 3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part I or (b) Part II of the Act of 1890.

- |                                                                                                                                                                             |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| (1) Name of Area.                                                                                                                                                           | — |
| (2) Acreage.                                                                                                                                                                | — |
| (3) Number of working-class houses in Area.                                                                                                                                 | — |
| (4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced.                                                                                                                        | — |
|                                                                                                                                                                             |   |
| (4) Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919 ... .. | — |
|                                                                                                                                                                             |   |
| (5) Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each Officer :—                                                                                              |   |

Medical Officer of Health.	General Supervision.
Nuisance Inspector.	General Inspection.



